

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Group Art Unit: 2176
: Examiner James J. Debrow
Faisal M. Awada et al. : Intellectual Property
Serial No: 10/660,072 : Law Department
Filed: 9/11/2003 : International Business
Title: WORLD WIDE WEB : Machines Corporation
DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM : 11400 Burnet Road
WITH A PLURALITY OF ALTERNATE : Austin, Texas 78758
USER-INTERFACE FORMATS : Customer No. 32,329
SELECTIVELY AVAILABLE FOR :
EACH BOOKMARKED WEB DOCUMENT :
Dated: 08/27/07 :

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Appeal from the Final Rejection of Claims 1-20 of this Application dated March 28, 2007. Section VIII. Appendix containing a copy of each of the Claims is attached.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is International Business Machines Corporation, the assignee of the present Application.

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II. Related Appeals and Interferences

None

III. Status of Claims

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

There are 20 claims in this Application.

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS

1. Claims cancelled: none
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: none.
3. Claims pending: 1-20.
4. Claims allowed: None.
5. Claims rejected: 1-20.

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

Claims on appeal: 1-20.

IV. Status of Amendments

No amendments have been filed after Final Rejection.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claim 1 is annotated as follows with respect to the Specification and Drawings.

1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network [Fig. 2, Web 50 described on page 9, lines 14-20 of the specification] with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving Web display stations [Fig 2, display terminals 57 described on page 9 lines 17-20] for displaying, in a standard display interface format [Web page 63, Fig. 3 described on page 10, lines 20-25], received hypertext Web documents of at least one display page containing text and images accessible from sources on the Web [Web page resources 60, 62, Fig. 2 described on page 10, lines 1-3] and hyperlinks to other Web documents, a system for selectively customizing the display interface format of Web documents bookmarked at a receiving display station comprising:

means for bookmarking a received Web document [description on page 6, lines 28-33 referring to user interface functions by devices 24, 26, 22 in Fig. 1; also standard bookmarking described on page 10, line 23 - page 11, line 1 referring to Web document 63, Fig. 4];

means for predetermining at least one display interface format alternate to said standard display interface format for bookmarked Web documents [described page 11, lines 1-11 referring to alternate format folders, CBF1 and CBF2, Fig. 4];

a document folder associated with each alternate display interface format, said document folder providing each Web document put into said folder with a set of predetermined characteristics and values defining said alternate display interface format [customized bookmark

folders (CBF1 and CBF2), Fig. 4 described on page 11, lines 4-14];

means, responsive to said bookmarking means, for enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a document folder associated with an alternate display interface format [page 10, line 29 - page 11, line 11 describes drop down menu 68, Fig. 4 through which user may select a folder to thereby give the Web document the alternate format]; and

means for displaying bookmarked documents in said document folder in said alternate display interface format [description on page 11, lines 12-14 referring to the display of Web documents in the customized format associated with the CBF (customized bookmarked folder), Fig. 4].

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Claim 8 is annotated as follows with respect to the Specification and Drawings.

8. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network [Fig. 2, Web 50 described on page 9, lines 14-20 of the specification] with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving Web display stations [Fig 2, display terminals 57 described on page 9 lines 17-20] for displaying, in a standard display interface format [Web page 63, Fig. 3 described on page 10, lines 20-25], received hypertext Web documents of at least one display page containing text and images accessible from sources [Web page resources 60, 62, Fig. 2 described on page 10 on the Web and hyperlinks to other Web documents, a method for selectively customizing the display interface format of Web documents bookmarked at a receiving display station comprising:

bookmarking a received Web document [description on page 6, lines 28-33 referring to user interface functions by devices 24, 26, 22 in Fig. 1; also standard bookmarking described on page 10, line 23 - page 11, line 1 referring to Web document 63, Fig. 4];

predetermining at least one display interface format alternate to said standard display interface format for bookmarked Web documents [described page 11, lines 1-11 referring to alternate format folders, CBF1 and CBF2, Fig. 4];

providing a document folder associated with each alternate display interface format, said document folder providing each Web document put into said folder with a set of predetermined characteristics and values defining said alternate display interface format [customized bookmark folders (CBF1 and CBF2), Fig. 4 described on page 11, lines 4-14];

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enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a document folder associated with an alternate display interface format [page 10, line 29 - page 11, line 11 describes drop down menu 68, Fig. 4 through which user may select a folder to thereby give the Web document the alternate format]; and

displaying bookmarked documents in said document folder in said alternate display interface format [description on page 11, lines 12-14 referring to the display of Web documents in the customized format associated with the CBF (customized bookmarked folder), Fig. 4].

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Claim 15 is annotated as follows with respect to the Specification and Drawings.

15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for selectively customizing the display interface format of Web documents bookmarked at a receiving display station [Fig 2, display terminals 57 described on page 9 lines 17-20] in a World Wide Web (Web) communication network [Fig. 2, Web 50 described on page 9, lines 14-20 of the specification] with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving Web display stations for displaying, in a standard display interface format [Web page 63, Fig. 3 described on page 10, lines 20-25], received hypertext Web documents of at least one display page containing text and images accessible from sources on the Web and hyperlinks to other Web documents, said computer program comprising:

means for bookmarking a received Web document [description on page 6, lines 28-33 referring to user interface functions by devices 24, 26, 22 in Fig. 1; also standard bookmarking described on page 10, line 23 - page 11, line 1 referring to Web document 63, Fig. 4];

means for predetermining at least one display interface format alternate to said standard display interface format for bookmarked Web documents [Fig. 6, step 72 described at page 12, lines 3-12];

a document folder associated with each alternate display interface format, said document folder providing each Web document put into said folder with a set of predetermined characteristics and values defining said alternate display interface format [Fig. 6, step 73 described at page 12, lines 13-15];

means, responsive to said bookmarking means, for enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a

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document folder associated with an alternate display interface format [Fig. 6, step 74 described at page 12, lines 15-17]; and

means for displaying bookmarked documents in said document folder in said alternate display interface format [Fig. 6, step 76 described at page 12, lines 17-23].

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VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khan et al. (US6,640,038), in view of Kendall et al. (US2005/0193053), further in view of Burke (US6,032,162).

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VII. Argument

Claims 1-20 are unobvious, and thus patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Khan et al. (US6,640,038) (hereinafter Khan), in view of Kendall et al. (US2005/0193053) (hereinafter Kendall) further in view of Burke (US6,032,162).

In accordance with the present invention, Web documents are conventionally presented to the receiving user in a standard all-purpose display interface that serves as a default interface. The user may need to present different types of regularly accessed, i.e. bookmarked, Web documents in different formats. The present invention provides the user at a receiving Web station with a plurality of alternate Web page display interface formats from which the user may select the appropriate format for each Web document that he bookmarks. Thus, each time that a bookmarked Web document will be subsequently displayed, it will have this optimum presentation interface format.

The claimed invention implements the plurality of formats by providing a plurality of folders with each respective document folder associated a corresponding alternate display interface format. The user is enabled to put a bookmarked Web document into a selected document folder associated with an alternate display interface format. Each respective document folder provides each Web document put into the folder with a set of predetermined characteristics and values defining the alternate display interface format.

The combination of the three references; Khan, Kendall, and Burke does not disclose or suggest the combination of elements claimed in the present invention. In order to simplify the issues in this Appeal, Appellants will hereinafter discuss the combination of references and extract what the Examiner and Appellant do agree with respect to each reference and the combination of references.

Kahn

Appellants and Examiner agree that Kahn only teaches the claimed element that received Web documents may be bookmarked.

Kendall

Appellants and Examiner agree that Kendall discloses storing received Web documents in alternate formats. Thus, Appellants and Examiner may be said to agree that the combination of Khan and Kendall disclose that received bookmarked Web documents may be selectively stored by a user in alternate formats.

However, Examiner and Appellants Agree that the Combination of Khan and Kendall Do Not Disclose the Claimed Elements:

"....a document folder associated with each alternate display interface format, said document folder providing each Web document put into said folder with a set of predetermined characteristics and values defining said alternate display interface format;

means, responsive to said bookmarking means, for enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a document folder associated with an alternate display interface format; and

means for displaying bookmarked documents in said document folder in said alternate display interface format."

The Examiner looks to the Burke patent to make up for these deficiencies in his combination of Kahn and Kendall

Appellants take issue with Examiner and submit that the combination with Burke fails to render the claimed invention obvious for the following reasons.

- The Examiner's combination of Khan and Kendall with Burke is not made with the required foresight based upon a suggestion coming from the references themselves but rather

with hindsight based upon Appellants own teaching. Such hindsight does not provide a proper basis for a combination of references.

- Even if the proposed combination with Burke could be made, there would still not be a teaching of the invention because, if anything, the teaching of Burke leads away from the present invention.

There is nothing in either Khan or Kendall to suggest to one skilled in the art that a user may select an alternate format for a received Web document by putting the received Web document into a folder which would provide the selected alternate format. Neither of these two basic references indicates any function related to folders. Appellants fail to find a mention of folders in either Kahn or Kendall for any purpose. Thus, the only suggestion that Examiner look to Burke must have come from Appellants' own teaching.

However, even if Burke were to be combined with the basic references, there would still not be a teaching of the present invention. Burke discloses a facility for the organization and storage of a user's (subscriber's) bookmarks at facility remote from the user. Burke's facility is intended to organize and categorize the bookmarks and store the bookmarks in files and folders in many categories based upon a wide variety of bookmark attributes, e.g. mainly on themes and topics but including display attributes.

However, it is important to note that in col 5, lines 26-28, Burke states that the file or folder selected for the bookmark is sorted based upon:

"....by an attribute previously allocated to the bookmarks by controller 30 in terminal 10." (underlining added)

This is a critical distinction because in the present claimed invention the display results from putting the bookmarked page or document into the folder i.e. the placement of the page into the folder will result in the allocation of the alternate display attributes to the page.

All Burke discloses is assigning a bookmarked document to a folder based upon already existing attributes. The placement into the folder in Burke does not cause the display attributes as in the present claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are unobvious, and thus patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Khan et al. (US6,640,038), in view of Kendall et al. (US2005/0193053) further in view of Burke (US6,032,162).

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Board of Appeals is respectfully requested to reverse the Final Rejection and find that claims 1-20 are unobvious, and thus patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Khan et al. (US6,640,038), in view of Kendall et al. (US2005/0193053) further in view of Burke (US6,032,162).

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VIII. Claims Appendix

1 1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with
2 user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
3 interactive receiving Web display stations for displaying,
4 in a standard display interface format, received hypertext
5 Web documents of at least one display page containing text
6 and images accessible from sources on the Web and hyperlinks
7 to other Web documents, a system for selectively customizing
8 the display interface format of Web documents bookmarked at
9 a receiving display station comprising:
10 means for bookmarking a received Web document;
11 means for predetermining at least one display interface
12 format alternate to said standard display interface format
13 for bookmarked Web documents;
14 a document folder associated with each alternate
15 display interface format, said document folder providing
16 each Web document put into said folder with a set of
17 predetermined characteristics and values defining said
18 alternate display interface format;
19 means, responsive to said bookmarking means, for
20 enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a
21 document folder associated with an alternate display
22 interface format; and
23 means for displaying bookmarked documents in said
24 document folder in said alternate display interface format.

1 2. The Web system of claim 1 further including:
2 means for further bookmarking a hyperlink in a
3 bookmarked Web document in a document folder associated with
4 an alternate display interface format; and
5 means, responsive to said means for further
6 bookmarking, for putting the Web document accessed through
7 further bookmarked hyperlink into the document folder
8 associated with said alternate display interface format,
9 wherein said further bookmarked Web document may also be
10 displayed in said same alternate display interface format.

1 3. The Web system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 Web browsing means at said receiving display station
3 including:
4 said means for bookmarking a received Web document;
5 said means for predetermining at least one display
6 interface format alternate to said standard display
7 interface format for bookmarked Web documents;
8 said document folder associated with each alternate
9 display interface format;
10 said means for enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web
11 document into a document folder associated with an alternate
12 display interface format; and
13 said means for displaying bookmarked documents in said
14 document folder in said alternate display interface format.

1 4. The Web system of claim 3 wherein said browsing means
2 further comprise:
3 means for further bookmarking a hyperlink in a
4 bookmarked Web document in a document folder associated with
5 an alternate display interface format; and
6 means, responsive to said means for further
7 bookmarking, for putting the Web document accessed through
8 further bookmarked hyperlink into the document folder
9 associated with said alternate display interface format,
10 wherein said further bookmarked Web document may also be
11 displayed in said same alternate display interface format.

1 5. The Web system of claim 1 wherein said means for
2 predetermining provides a plurality of said alternate
3 display interface formats; and
4 further including a document folder associated with
5 each of said alternate display interface formats.

1 6. The Web system of claim 5 wherein said means for
2 enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a
3 document folder permits the user to put the bookmarked
4 document into a plurality of folders respectfully associated
5 with a plurality of alternate display interface formats.

1 7. The Web system of claim 5 wherein said means for
2 displaying simultaneously displays said plurality of Web
3 documents having said alternate formats in respective
4 separate windows.

1 8. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with
2 user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
3 interactive receiving Web display stations for displaying,
4 in a standard display interface format, received hypertext
5 Web documents of at least one display page containing text
6 and images accessible from sources on the Web and hyperlinks
7 to other Web documents, a method for selectively customizing
8 the display interface format of Web documents bookmarked at
9 a receiving display station comprising:
10 bookmarking a received Web document;
11 predetermining at least one display interface format
12 alternate to said standard display interface format for
13 bookmarked Web documents;
14 providing a document folder associated with each
15 alternate display interface format, said document folder
16 providing each Web document put into said folder with a set
17 of predetermined characteristics and values defining said
18 alternate display interface format;
19 enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a
20 document folder associated with an alternate display
21 interface format; and
22 displaying bookmarked documents in said document folder
23 in said alternate display interface format.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further including the steps of:
2 further, bookmarking a hyperlink in a bookmarked Web
3 document in a document folder associated with an alternate
4 display interface format; and
5 putting the Web document accessed through further
6 bookmarked hyperlink into the document folder associated
7 with said alternate display interface format, wherein said
8 further bookmarked Web document may also be displayed in
9 said same alternate display interface format.

1 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
2 a Web browsing process at said receiving display
3 station including said steps of:
4 bookmarking a received Web document;
5 predetermining at least one display interface
6 format alternate to said standard display interface
7 format for bookmarked Web documents;
8 providing a document folder associated with each
9 alternate display interface format;
10 enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document
11 into a document folder associated with an alternate
12 display interface format; and
13 displaying bookmarked documents in said document
14 folder in said alternate display interface format.

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- 2 11. The Web method of claim 10 wherein said Web browsing
3 process further comprises said steps of:
4 further bookmarking a hyperlink in a bookmarked Web
5 document in a document folder associated with an alternate
6 display interface format; and
7 putting the Web document accessed through said further
8 bookmarked hyperlink into the document folder associated
9 with said alternate display interface format, wherein said
10 further bookmarked Web document may also be displayed in
11 said same alternate display interface format.
- 1 12. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of
2 predetermining provides a plurality of said alternate
3 display interface formats; and
4 said step of providing respectively provides a document
5 folder associated with each of said alternate display
6 interface formats.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of enabling a
2 user to put a bookmarked Web document into a document folder
3 permits the user to put the bookmarked document into a
4 plurality of folders respectfully associated with a
5 plurality of alternate display interface formats.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of displaying
2 simultaneously displays said plurality of Web documents
3 having said alternate formats in respective separate
4 windows.

1 15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer
2 readable medium for selectively customizing the display
3 interface format of Web documents bookmarked at a receiving
4 display station in a World Wide Web (Web) communication
5 network with user access via a plurality of data processor
6 controlled interactive receiving Web display stations for
7 displaying, in a standard display interface format, received
8 hypertext Web documents of at least one display page
9 containing text and images accessible from sources on the
10 Web and hyperlinks to other Web documents, said computer
11 program comprising:
12 means for bookmarking a received Web document;
13 means for predetermining at least one display interface
14 format alternate to said standard display interface format
15 for bookmarked Web documents;
16 a document folder associated with each alternate
17 display interface format, said document folder providing
18 each Web document put into said folder with a set of
19 predetermined characteristics and values defining said
20 alternate display interface format;
21 means, responsive to said bookmarking means, for
22 enabling a user to put a bookmarked Web document into a
23 document folder associated with an alternate display
24 interface format; and
25 means for displaying bookmarked documents in said
26 document folder in said alternate display interface format.

1 16. The computer program of claim 15 further including:
2 means for further bookmarking a hyperlink in a
3 bookmarked Web document in a document folder associated with
4 an alternate display interface format; and
5 means, responsive to said means for further
6 bookmarking, for putting the Web document accessed through
7 further bookmarked hyperlinks into the document folder
8 associated with said alternate display interface format,
9 wherein said further bookmarked Web document may also be
10 displayed in said same alternate display interface format.

1 17. The computer program of claim 15 further comprising:
2 a Web browser program at said receiving display station
3 including:
4 said means for bookmarking a received Web
5 document;
6 said means for predetermining at least one display
7 interface format alternate to said standard display
8 interface format for bookmarked Web documents;
9 said document folder associated with each
10 alternate display interface format;
11 said means for enabling a user to put a bookmarked
12 Web document into a document folder associated with an
13 alternate display interface format; and
14 said means for displaying bookmarked documents in
15 said document folder in said alternate display
16 interface format.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17 wherein said Web
2 browser program further comprises:
3 means for further bookmarking a hyperlink in a
4 bookmarked Web document in a document folder associated with
5 an alternate display interface format; and
6 means, responsive to said means for further
7 bookmarking, for putting the Web document accessed through
8 further bookmarked hyperlinks into the document folder
9 associated with said alternate display interface format,
10 wherein said further bookmarked Web document may also be
11 displayed in said same alternate display interface format.

1 19. The computer program of claim 15 wherein said means for
2 predetermining provides a plurality of said alternate
3 display interface formats; and
4 further including a document folder associated with
5 each of said alternate display interface formats.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein said means for
2 displaying simultaneously displays said plurality of Web
3 documents having said alternate formats in respective
4 separate windows.

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IX. Evidence Appendix

There was no evidence presented in the prosecution of the present Application.

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X. Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no proceedings related to the present proceedings.